

SAD  
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Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Keiko ITO et al.

10/086381

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 4, 2002

For: METHOD OF  
PROLIFERATING A  
MICROORGANISM CAPABLE  
OF DEGRADING A HARD-TO-  
DEGRADE ORGANIC  
COMPOUND AND METHOD  
OF DEGRADING A HARD-TO-  
DEGRADE ORGANIC  
COMPOUND

Group Art Unit: 1744

Examiner: Beisner



Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

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1. Japanese Patent No. 2603182 discloses a control method for bacteria growth with a copper ion used as a control ion, in which the copper ion is an inhibitor and ferrous ions are activators for bacteria growth.

2. Fukuda et al.; "MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF ENZYMES DEGRADING POLLUTANTS : DIVERSITY AND CONVERGENT EVOLUTION OBSERVED ON EXTRADIOL DIOXYGENASES"; Protein, Nucleic Acid and Enzyme, Vol. 45, No. 8, pages 1339-1349, (2000), discloses how enzymes that degrade aromatic compounds contain ferrous ions as a cofactor.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 4, 2002

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian  
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Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/gah

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.2742	Serial No.	
Applicant	Keiko ITO et al.		
Filing Date	March 4, 2002	Group:	

10996 U.S. PTO  
10/08/98  
10/08/98  
03/04/02

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,919,696	07/06/1999	Ikeda et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
2603182	04/23/1997	Japan			No

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Fukuda et al.; "MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF ENZYMES DEGRADING POLLUTANTS : DIVERSITY AND CONVERGENT EVOLUTION OBSERVED ON EXTRADIOL DIOXYGENASES"; Protein, Nucleic Acid and Enzyme, Vol. 45, No. 8, pages 1339-1349, (2000)

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce